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LB 150

Governor's veto, where he stripped out a considerable amount of money for additional security staff for the Department of Corrections, confirms what I said about all the hypocrisy, the posturing, and the political force behind all this prison construction. I had talked about the operational costs being the subject that will escalate in terms of how much it's going to cost the state. It will never go away. It will always increase. And when you see that the Governor is not willing right now to allow enough money to provide the staff needed for existing facilities, it's clear that he and any other governor will cut corners when it comes to operational costs if this monstrosity that is envisioned by LB 150 should ever come to fruition. Senator Brashear has said that he'll pull this amendment, and he had indicated that in the very beginning. The discussion is necessary. I noted a letter, a ranting, raving letter that the Attorney General submitted to the Legislature, trying to make himself the fiftieth member of the Legislature. Next session, when we deal with these appropriation's bills, I'm going to look at that budget. He has been so willing to file lawsuits and challenges to this, that, and the other hot button political issue, and has lost on practically every one of them. He plays political games. This issue is far too grave, too broad, far-reaching in its consequences to allow him to intrude into our legislative process. Some senators will follow along behind what he said. But the man has absolutely no knowledge, whatsoever, of how the penal system and the parole board operate. He put in his letter, he listed some kinds of crimes that he thought were particularly viscous and said a person committing such a crime would be eligible for parole after having served one-sixth of the sentence imposed if this amendment that we're proposing to LB 150 were to be adopted. What the Attorney General in his ignorance does not realize is that eligibility for parole does not mean parole. There are many people, because of the way the Parole Board is working in concert with the Governor to help create overcrowding, is not paroling people when they are eligible to be paroled. Eligibility for parole does not result in parole. It means that the Parole Board can hold a hearing and consider whether or not they will grant parole. They need never parole an individual, and that's when...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.